

**DSG, Inc.**

**Data Systems Group**

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# TIPS OF THE TRADE

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## New in M•A•S 90®

### *Advisory File Locking*

M•A•S 90 Level 2.0 offers something new for those who are frustrated by their inability to work while another user is making an inquiry or checking a maintenance screen.

Advisory File Locking will now allow multiple M•A•S 90 users to work in a inquiry or maintenance screen without locking other users out of performing data entry, report generation or updating functions. This new feature was designed to streamline the workflow process in a multi-user environment, and it can really be a big plus

to those using the M•A•S 90 system.

The new Advisory File Locking is one of many enhancements that can be found in Level 2.0. It is a part of the Library Master Module.

Detailed instructions on how to incorporate Advisory File Locking into your working environment are included in the materials provided for Level 2.0. Also, your support person at DSG, Inc. can show you how to use the enhancement and answer any questions you may have.

## Windows® 95 Is Coming!

The latest version of Windows is on its way. Windows 95 has been touted as the most user-friendly operating system ever introduced. With the introduction of the "Answer Wizard" in Microsoft Office, Microsoft lets users ask the software how to do certain tasks, and the user gets to use everyday language!

In Microsoft Office, a user can ask the computer, "How can I make my Word document two columns?" The Answer Wizard will then sort through the help topics and come up with a list of some topics that could be of use.

According to Microsoft Monthly, "Preliminary usability tests have found that the Answer Wizard can help people find answers 25 percent faster than previous Help systems could, in part

because users no longer have to guess which kind of help they need."

The Microsoft Office for the Windows 95 operating system will include Word, Microsoft Excel, Schedule+ and the presentations graphics program PowerPoint®.

Windows 95 is scheduled for release on August 24. Plan now to pick up your copy of Windows 95.

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# BusinessWorks™ 10.0

*The Software of the Future . . . and the Present*

BusinessWorks 10.0, to be released in August, has lots to offer. Whether you are upgrading or have only just thought about using BusinessWorks, this is the version to try. New features include:

**Filters:** In 10.0 you will be able to use up to 10 criteria per report to customize selection of criteria. System-wide filters make this possible.

**Custom Forms and Checks:** Now you can customize your invoices, checks, quotes and sales orders.

**Account Inquiry:** You will now be able to query budgets, transaction deals and account balances.

**Automatic Purchase Orders:** Purchase orders will be generated automatically when a part is needed in inventory to satisfy demand.

**Purchase History:** You will be able to view a customer's previous purchase history for a particular part when you are generating quotes, sales orders and invoices.

**Information Importing:** It will be possible to import pricing information into Inventory Parts, invoices and memos into Accounts Payable, standard items into Accounts Receivable and timecards into Payroll.

## Where Did that Cost Come From?

In M•A•S 90, the system makes a cost association with each item, assuming that you want it. If an item has a primary cost equal to zero, the Purchase Order Processing, Inventory Management and Sales Order Processing will try to find a cost for the item that is not equal to zero. How the system finds a price depends on the items valuation method. If the item's valuation method is Average Cost, for example, and the Warehouse Average Cost is zero, then M•A•S 90 will use the Item Average Cost to find a price. If Item Average Cost is zero, then the system will look for a non-zero price in Last Cost, and so on.

For each valuation method, the hierarchy of costs is:

### For Average Cost valuation:

1. Warehouse Average Cost
2. Item Average Cost
3. Last Cost
4. Standard Cost

### For Standard Cost valuation:

1. Standard Cost
2. Last Cost
3. Warehouse Average Cost
4. Item Average Cost

### For all other valuation methods (LIFO, FIFO, Lot & Serial):

1. Last Cost
2. Standard Cost
3. Warehouse Average Cost
4. Item Average Cost

## Who's Using SY0CNF?

If you are on a Novell Network, and receive the system message: "SY0CNF.SOA IN USE BY ANOTHER TASK," you may have run out of conventional memory, a CAPTURE statement within M•A•S 90 (or the network) has not been properly

executed, or a printer has not been defined. Another possibility is, you need to delete any existing \*.LCK files in the \MAS90\HOME directory.

*from Tips and Techniques, a State of the Art publication*

## HELP!

*My computer has crashed and it won't boot up!*

There are many things that can cause a computer to crash. Often, the computer will tell you that an error has occurred, and leave you to make the next step. The system may be locked, giving you no other choice but to shut down the system.

Before you touch the reset switch, however, stop. It is important to write down any error messages you see, even if it is just a number. If an error occurs while in M•A•S 90, type **INFO** and write down all the information given. If possible, stay in this window until you talk to your technical support person at DSG, Inc. If you need to exit the window, type **END**.

While the error message may not mean anything to you, your support person can probably use it to help you discover the reason for the problem. Unless you have had the problem before and know what to do, call your support person before you do anything. It is possible that extra steps could be avoided and that valuable data could be retrieved. It is also possible that other users have had a similar problem, and that a simple solution has been found.

Not every system crash has a happy ending, however. Occasionally hardware or network failure can lead to the replacement of disk drives or the reinstallation of software. Either of these can make it difficult or impossible to retrieve information from the old system.

For this reason, it is wise to do a system backup regularly. A backup can be started in the late afternoon and can be left to run over an evening or weekend. Doing a backup, even if it seems useless, can mean saving yourself a lot of unnecessary headache.

## Tip of the Month

### Entering Drop Shipments

A drop-ship sales transaction involves the recording of a sale where the seller never holds physical possession of the goods sold. Instead, the goods are shipped directly to the customer via a third-party vendor who in turn bills the seller the value of the goods delivered. The M•A•S 90 Sales Order module will allow you to input both drop-ship sales orders and invoices consisting of inventory, special items and miscellaneous items.

After entering an item in the sales order or invoice entry line detail, you simply access the drop-ship field (DS) and flag it **Y** to assign the item a drop-ship status. The DS field is accessed in the line detail of the Sales Order, Invoice Entry input screens, using the up arrow key. Also, you can modify the default tab settings to automatically stop at the DS field. The default tab settings are accessed by entering **T** at the IS THE ABOVE CORRECT? prompt in the default values screen of both sales order and invoice data entry.

If the user has entered **Y** to print the Daily Drop-Ship report in the Sales Order Option Screen, they will have the option to print the daily Drop-Ship Report after sales order printing is completed. The report lists all inventory items, miscellaneous and special items to be drop-shipped directly by the vendor to the customer, and the information on the report may be retained indefinitely.

*from Tips and Techniques, a State of the Art publication*

Technical Support for any M•A•S 90 product can be obtained by contacting DSG, Inc.  
(901) 384-6600  
FAX (901) 384-6602

# MODULES

## M•A•S 90 Level 2.0 Offers New Module Enhancements!

With the arrival of M•A•S 90 Level 2.0 comes enhancements for all of the 26 modules offered by the company. All of the modules have at least new features for improving compatibility and integration, and eight have major new enhancements involving new capabilities and features. The following is just an overview of what is available with version 2.0.

**Library Master:** A Master Console now allows you to send messages to all of your M•A•S 90 users, chat interactively with other users, and print a log file at your convenience. In addition, security is improved by this Master Console.

A List Mode Master will let you redefine the fields displayed during an F2 list. User-defined preferences are now offered. You can schedule automatic updates to run at any time - even overnight! Many other features were added to Library Master, including Advisory File Locking, Easy Data Migration, and product registration. Memory management under a Windows environment has been improved as well.

**Report Master:** Many enhancements make this module much more flexible and powerful. Import/export capability may be added to report definitions, making them transferrable from installation to installation. The Report Master Maintenance Listing is now on the Report Master Menu, making it more accessible. You can now run reports from the operating system.

**Import Master:** Imports can now be run from the operating system, and your imports can be larger and more complicated. You can now define Multiple Skip records. You can use date math when making calculations.

**Inventory Management:** You now can have an unlimited number of entries in the Unit of Measure Conversion Maintenance.

Many more enhancements have been made in M•A•S 90 Level 2.0: this is just the tip of the iceberg. For more information concerning enhancements for the modules you use, contact your support person at DSG, Inc.



*"Okay, Okay! I'll do a backup!"*

# Q & A

*Q: My boss is always after me to do a tape backup when I leave for the weekend. Why are backups so important? Power outages are rare in our area.*

**A:** Power outages aren't the only reason to do a tape backup, or even an occasional floppy disk backup if you don't have a tape drive. You never know when things could go wrong with your computer, the network, or even the program you are using. Computer failure happens even in the most ideal of situations, and not having a current backup of your system and files could mean the loss of valuable information. Should a network or computer go down and have to be replaced, the information stored on it may not be accessible. If you have a backup, it is a simple process to restore your

data to the new computer or network. No backup, no restoration.

*Q: I have a pile of product registration forms sitting on my desk. Is it really important to register new hardware and software?*

**A:** While filling out a software registration form may seem like a lot of unnecessary work, it is important to register new software. When software is registered, you gain access to information about upgrades, which can save you money in the long run. Usually, you can only buy the upgrade if you have registered a previous version, and the upgrades are quite a bit cheaper than the new package. Also, with registration of the software usually comes some form of technical support.

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